

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA/VN:JDFINNEY:BK

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TREASURY:SSUMMERFIELD

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R 302239Z MAY 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 113803

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, VN

SUBJECT: LICENSING OF U. S. PRIVATE ASSISTANCE TO NORTH
VIET-NAM

FOR LEHMANN FROM WENZEL

REF: SAIGON 6779

1. ACCORDING TO SOURCES IN DEPARTMENT AND TREASURY, BACH MAI HOSPITAL RELIEF FUND, INC. WAS ESTABLISHED IN WAKE OF U. S. BOMBING OF HANOI (DECEMBER, 1972 - JANUARY, 1973) BY GROUP OF MEDICAL DOCTORS, ACADEMICS AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL PEOPLE FROM BOSTON - CAMBRIDGE AREA. FORMER U. S. ATTORNEY-GENERAL RAMSEY CLARK AND SEVERAL U. S. NOBEL PRIZE WINNERS ARE REPORTEDLY INCLUDED AMONG FUND MEMBERSHIP. TREASURY SOURCE WHO HAS DEALT WITH FUND REPRESENTATIVES DESCRIBES THEM AS HAVING STRONG EMOTIONAL BIAS AGAINST PAST AND PRESENT U. S. ROLE IN VIET-NAM.

2. MONEY FOR PURCHASE OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO BE SHIPPED TO DRV WAS APPARENTLY RAISED THROUGH VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS SOLICITED IN NATIONWIDE CAMPAIGN CONDUCTED IN PART ON NUMBER OF COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES.

3. TREASURY SOURCE REPORTS FURTHER THAT FUND REPRESENTA-
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TIVES HAD ORIGINALLY DISCUSSED LICENSE TO SEND MEDICAL

SUPPLIES PLUS FUNDS TO HELP REBUILD ENTIRE BACH MAI HOSPITAL. WHEN INFORMED BY TREASURY THAT SENDING U. S. DOLLARS

TO DRV WOULD BE MOST DIFFICULT TO ARRANGE, FUND DECIDED TO APPLY INITIALLY FOR LICENSE TO SHIP 600,000 DOLLARS WORTH OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES. TREASURY SOURCE CONCLUDES ON BASIS OF THIS THAT IT IS POSSIBLE FUND WILL REQUEST LICENSE FOR FUTURE SHIPMENTS OF ASSISTANCE. BROWN

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